



Road Working Group Plan 6 Week Review

Membership

- ▶ Full comp licences holders up 18% (first increase in 4 years)
- ▶ C1/2/3 195/372/1692 A1/2/3/4 134/235/638/905
- ▶ Middle and lower tier categories are now at sustainable (can provide separate racing) numbers
- ▶ Top tier (C1) growing, but not at capacity yet. Needs increase long-term.

Long Term Objective:

- ▶ Retain Current Racing Members: addition of new members will lead to growth overall
- ▶ To retain members we need to offer a 'race for all': maintain separate category races at National Grade Events and cater for all standards
- ▶ Expand the base of C3 & C2
- ▶ Expanding C2 in particular, over time, is the key to leading to growth in C1 category through riders upgrading.
- ▶ Maintain three races at National Grade level to ensure competitive racing in each band.

Entries

- ▶ All races average entries 2025: C1/2/3 32/43/59 and in 2024 was A1/2/3/4 25/25/48/34
- ▶ Women's Racing: entries on par with 2024
- ▶ National Events Entries C1/2/3 41/44/55
- ▶ Regional Events Entries C1/2/3 29/39/57
- ▶ National Event entries up 26%
- ▶ Regional Event entries on par with 2024
- ▶ Connaught entries (92 avg) up 50%
- ▶ Leinster entries (184 avg) slight reduction of 6%
- ▶ Munster entries (115 avg) up 2%
- ▶ Ulster entries (102 avg) slight reduction of 4%
- ▶ 6 National Events & 14 Regional Events & 1 Stage Race

National Event Entries

	2024	2025	Change
Seamus Kennedy	132	188	+ 42%
Sliabh Luchra	75	126	+ 68%
Galway Classic*	53	93	+ 74%
Des Hanlon	221	218	- 1%
Donal Crowley	106	115	+ 8%
PJ Logan	150	145	- 3%

C1	C2	C3	W
44	58	70	16
31	30	55	11
19	31	43	
70	60	68	20
34	34	47	
45	51	49	

*Specialist event, gravel and climbing

Regional Event Entries

		2024	2025	Change	Race Cancelled/ Format Modified	#Events That Weekend	Competing Event In Same Province	National Event Same Weekend	C1	C2	C3	W	Comment
Wk 1	Annaclone GP	113	66	-42%	No	5	Yes	Yes	16	22	28		Low C1s & Overall Number
	Pheonix GP	106	88	-17%	Yes	5	Yes	Yes	*	34	38	16	C1 Race Cancelled
	Dublin Wheelers	164	124	-24%	No	5	Yes	Yes	30	29	65		C2 Numbers Low
	Lacey Cup	112	95	-15%	No	5	No	Yes	16	20	59		Planned as combined C1/2
Wk 2	Boyne GP	226	177	-22%	No	3	No	Yes	48	60	69		
	Haldane	139	128	-8%	Yes	3	No	Yes	35	36	57		C1&2 Combined at last minute
Wk 3	Lucan GP	229	175	-24%	No	4	No	Yes	32	63	80		C1s lower than expected / Nat event
	Tour of Ards	71	104	46%	No	4	No	Yes	18	41	45		Low C1s / Nat Event / 2 other C1 only races
	Bobby Power	141	122	-13%	Yes	4	No	Yes	33	32	57		C1&2 Combined at last minute
Wk 4	Coombes Connor	162	219	35%	No	2	No	No	38	63	118		
	Ras Mayo	69	99	43%	No	2	No	No	44	34	21		
Wk 5	Killinchy GP	114	126	11%	No	3	No	Yes	16	47	63		Low C1s / Nat Event / 1 other C1 only race
	Castlebar GP	63	85	35%	No	3	No	Yes	20	22	43		Planned as combined C1/2
Wk 6	Carn Wheelers				No	3	No	Yes	14	52	59		Low C1s (sep race)
	VC Glendale				Yes	3	Yes	Yes					C2&C3 Races both Cancelled

Ulster Region Year To Date

- ▶ Membership: C1/2/3 44/114/344
- ▶ Wk1 2 events (Annaclone & Pheonix) in a 5 event weekend:
 - ▶ Low C1/2s in one race and another sep C1 race cancelled
- ▶ Wk2 1 event (Haldane Sep C1/2/3) in a 3 event weekend & 2 other sep C1 races:
 - ▶ Last minute combination of C1/2s
- ▶ Wk3 1 event (Tour of Ards Sep C1/2/3) in a 4 event weekend & 3 other sep C1 races:
 - ▶ 18 C1 starters
- ▶ Wk5 1 event (Killinchy GP Sep C1/2/3) in a 3 event weekend ^ 1 other sep C1 race:
 - ▶ 16 C1 starters
- ▶ Wk6 2 events (Carn Wheelers (sep C1/2/3) & VC Glendale) in a 3 event weekend:
 - ▶ Event cancelled & 12 C1 starters in the other

Conclusion:

Too many promoters running sep C1/2/3 races despite advice to combine C1/2 in Regional events

Number of C1 in Ulster at this moment is not enough to sustain separate C1 races.

Riders are no longer committed to racing twice in one weekend.

One weekend race in Ulster, and format should be combined C1 and C2 with separate C3 race, as proved very popular for Wallace Caldwell.

Ulster have several junior riders upgraded from C3 to C2 already and they will upgrade to C1 in due course.

Average Entries Nationwide by #Events/Weekend

As we reduce the number of events per weekend we are getting sustainable field sizes. As such, the calendar needs to be reviewed.

	C1	C2	C3
5 Events Per Weekend	17	33	52
4 Events Per Weekend	15	42	56
3 Events Per Weekend	34	43	59
2 Events Per Weekend	41	49	70

Category Standards & Cup Competitions

- ▶ **C1 category smaller but increasing at present: Target growth from 195 current to 250 by commencement of 2026 season in order to be sustainable as separate category (long term goal 350+)**
 - ▶ Numbers too low for separate races at regional events (some north leinster exceptions)
 - ▶ Regional variation in national event entries
 - ▶ Rider feedback: groups are small but even standard of racing is improved, due to riders being of equal ability.
- ▶ **C2 category buoyant**
 - ▶ Racing is competitive and producing very active racing
 - ▶ Sustainable as a stand-alone category for middle ground riders
 - ▶ National level juniors have upgraded to C1 quickly
 - ▶ Separate C2 national races very successful & critical to the retention of riders and future growth of C1 category
 - ▶ Rider Feedback: racing is competitive but fair and more fun with good group sizes
- ▶ **C3 category buoyant**
 - ▶ Slightly higher entry level than A4: League racing and Masters only regional racing important
 - ▶ 28 juniors already upgraded to C2
 - ▶ Rider feedback: larger pelotons is good, albeit a higher standard
- ▶ **20 Points Placings at National Events has improved the racing dynamic and increased number of riders racing to finish**
- ▶ **Use of chip timing, along with improved result output has led to more positive experience for riders**
- ▶ **Cup competitions are proving very competitive**

Conclusions & Changes

- ▶ Road racing and interest is increasing
- ▶ We have 3 distinct racing levels. Middle ground of riders much more engaged – prospect of retention and top category growth is good
- ▶ Further review of engagement with Masters riders required
- ▶ National events improved across entry level, results and rider experience
- ▶ National Grade Events attracting more travelling riders, compared to previous years
- ▶ Compact peletons in C1 will grow with upgrading of C2 riders
- ▶ Continued review of calendar and event format to ensure competitive racing
- ▶ Chip Timing at National Grade events hugely popular. Access to results of all races much improved

Recommendations:

1. Proposed change the default format for ALL regional events to be combined C1/2 (mass start or handicap) & separate C3 until 250 C1s nationwide is reached (regional exceptions to be discussed with CI events team)
2. Ongoing discussion over remaining weekend regional clashes in 2025, review 2026 with regional calendar coordinators
3. In the rest of 2025, only 2 weekends have 4 events, discuss with organisers and for 2026 discuss with organisers options for 3 events per weekend
4. Put Masters Only mini-series 5/6 events in place for July/August/Sept 2025 leading up to National Championships
5. Further engage with Women's Commission on improving female experience and participation